GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6418
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies which were granted Internet Service Provider`s (ISP) licence in the country as on December 31, 2001 ;

(b) the number of people who have subscribed to the internet facility as on December 31, 2001

(c) whether the band width presently available is sufficient to cater to the growing demands of internet traffic in the country;

(d) whether the Service Providers have been permitted to obtain band width from foreign satellites and establish international gateway for Internet traffic; and

(e) if so, the number of companies which have obtained band width facility and the extent to which the additional band width so obtained will ease the demand ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) As on December 31, 2001; 448 Internet Service Providers (ISP) licenses were issued to 384 companies.

(b) As on December 31, 2001, 150 ISPs had reported start of Internet Service and the number of Internet Subscribers were around 38 lakhs.

(c) to (e): Yes, Sir. Further to increase the availability of International bandwidth for Internet in the country, the Government has permitted ISPs to set up International Gateways for Internet using foreign satellite and Submarine Cable mediums after taking security clearance. As on date, 20 ISPs have been permitted to commission 45 International Gateways for Internet using foreign satellite.